

RESPONSES TO MILLAGE RATE HEARING PUBLIC COMMENTS - 6.28.23

QUESTION	RESPONSE
Where is the video recording of the first Budget Hearing?	It is not a requirement of law to record or stream Board Meetings/Hearings. This has been a courtesy we have offered. The first meeting was not streamed due to scheduling conflicts with staff. There are no recordings of budget hearings prior to 2020.
What are the plans for the reserve?	When budgeting, projections are made for 3-5 years of expectations, and there are many initiatives on the horizon that are mandatory – and often unfunded. These include such things as increases to health insurance and Teacher Retirement (which we know are coming) and loss of federal funds (ESSER and ARPA). We also hold a reserve to carry through in times of economic downturn. A portion of that reserve is also associated with cash flow. We must have enough funds in reserve for times of the year when property taxes are not collected, resulting in negative cash flow when expenditures greatly outweigh revenue.
Clarify what waiver allows the Fund Balance to exceed 15%.	According to Amy Rowell of the Georgia Department of Education Division of Financial Review, as a charter school district, we did waive the 15% cap. This information has also been confirmed by Sarah Mcleod of the Georgia Department of Audits, who is specifically in the school audit division. Only two school systems in the state do not have this waiver. Most systems in the state have large fund balances at this point because of the infusion of federal funds - ESSER and ARPA.
Is this an "illegal" budget?	No
What constitutes the public relations fund? How does it help attract/retain teachers and help our students learn?	The PR/Communications budget covers costs associated with our website hosting and usage, marketing and advertising for human resources and programs for all departments and schools, newsletter software for all schools, advertising and promotion for meetings, etc. It also covers translation and interpretation expenses required by federal law (Spanish always and other languages as requested) among other things.
Why is the district showing there will be \$221 million collected through property taxes?	The speaker during public comments did not recall the number shared correctly. The amount shared during the presentation was \$121 million .
Why are you saying the whole district is a charter school?	CCSD is a charter school district. Read more here: https://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/domain/91
Why did the Flagpole say the mill rate was being increased to 20 mills?	That was not the information presented.
Are art programs and STEM programs being cut?	Art and STEM programs are not being cut. All art programs are remaining in place at all schools. The model for STEM instruction is left to the discretion of each principal. Models include but are not limited to the following: incorporating STEM throughout the content areas, providing STEM as a special area class, and implementing school-wide STEM programs and events
Are all the teachers we are hiring needed?	Staffing of teachers at each school is determined based upon an annual allotment process which takes into account each school's FTE numbers and subsequent QBE funding.
What are we doing to address the deficiencies in	A full review of the reading and math curriculum is regularly conducted to determine the need for curriculum revisions and resource changes. Additionally, based upon the identified needs, professional learning is identified to build the capacity of teachers to

<p>student achievement (reading, math)?</p>	<p>provide high-quality and engaging instruction for all students. Based on student performance data, additional instructional supports are provided to allow students to receive small group and individual intervention support.</p>
<p>Can you clarify what role ACC Government has in approving the CCSD budget?</p>	<p>ACC government has no involvement in setting or approving the CCSD budget.</p>
<p>Why is there a \$7 million reserve?</p>	<p>The undesignated \$4,690,812 the speaker referred to is not designated to a specific cost center, but does have a purpose and is included in budgeted expenditures. For example, deferred maintenance of \$1 million is undesignated to a cost center, but is a budgeted expenditure. Additionally, the excess revenue of \$2,370,797 has been designated in contingency for specific purposes and is not unallocated.</p>

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